



STATE OF MICHIGAN

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State to host public purchasing conference

LANSING – The Department of Management and Budget and several other State of Michigan departments are joining with business, education and government organizations to present an informational forum for public purchasing professionals. Speakers at the State of Michigan Conference for Public Purchasing Professionals will clarify requirements put in place by Proposal 2 and help public groups meet the ongoing need to expand vendor pools and share best purchasing practices.

This one-day event will be held from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday, June 25, at the VisTaTech Center at Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty Road, Livonia.

In 2006, voters passed Proposal 2, which amended Michigan's Constitution to prohibit programs that consider race or gender in public contracting, employment and education. This amendment barred "preferential treatment" based on race, sex, color, ethnicity or national origin. Its passage left many public purchasing professionals in need of purchasing practices to comply with the law.

Conference presenters will discuss the purchasing process and explain how cooperative purchasing programs can leverage buying power. Sessions will outline the process for securing federal contracts and will address contracting for information technology, human services and construction. A number of vendors will offer insight on ways government can remove barriers to doing business with the public sector.

The \$40 conference fee covers all sessions, a continental breakfast, lunch and refreshments during breaks and the closing reception. For more information or to register online, visit www.michigan.gov/BuyMichiganFirst.

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